Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01000 231347Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /119 W
----------102886 240241Z /63
R 210039Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0157
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01000

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PORG, TS
SUBJECT: TUNISIAN UN DIPLOMAT'S VIEWS ON NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM)

1. OVER LUNCH MARCH 17, TUNISIAN MISSOFF BACHROUCH SAID THAT THE NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE (NACC) IN NEW YORK HAD BEGUN WORK ON THE REPORTS TO BE SUBMITTED FOR MINISTERIAL CONSIDERATION IN KABUL IN MAY. THE CENTER-PIECE WOULD BE A REPORT ON THE PAST YEAR'S ACTIVITIES, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF THE MAJOR POLITICAL PO-INTS AT ISSUE. THIS CENTERPIECE REPORT, HOWEVER, WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO DEFINE A NACC CONSENSUS ON THE MAJOR CON-
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PAGE 02 USUN N 01000 231347Z

TENTIOUS ISSUES. RATHER, BACHROUCH SAID, IT WOULD ATTEMPT ONLY TO LAY OUT THE BACKGROUND CLEARLY ON BOTH SIDES OF CONTENTIOUS ISSUES -- EXPRESSLY LEAVING IT FOR MINISTERS TO DECIDE WHAT COURSE OF ACTION TO RECOMMEND FOR FINAL DECISION AT BELGRADE. MISSOFF (GRAHAM) DES-CRIBED THE STRUCTURE OF A STATE DEPARTMENT OPTIONS PAPER AND ASKED BACHROUCH IF THIS WAS THE SORT OF THING

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

THE NACC WAS NOW ATTEMPTING. BACHROUCH ANSWERED THAT, WHILE THE IDEAS WERE SIMILAR, THE NACC REPORT WOULD NOT EXPLICITLY SPELL OUT THE OPTIONS FOR DECISION FOR EACH CONTENTIOUS ITEM. RATHER THE NARRATIVE OF THE REPORT FOR EACH SUCH ITEM WOULD BE SO CONSTRUCTED AS TO IMPLICITLY DEFINE THE VARIOUS AVENUES FOR DECISION. AN EXPLICIT "OPTIONS" STRUCTURE, BACHROUCH SAID, WOULD BE "TOO DIVISIVE" FOR THE NACC TO HANDLE. IN ADDITION TO THIS MAJOR REPORT, BACHROUCH CONTINUED, THE NACC WAS ALSO DRAFTING A SERIES OF BASICALLY NON-CONTROVERSIAL SUBSIDIARY REPORTS. FOR EXAMPLE, TUNISIA WAS THE HEAD OF A DRAFTING GROUP WORKING ON A REPORT ON INFORMATION ACTIVITIES.

2. FUTURE OF THE NAM: BACHROUCH STRESSED THAT IT HAD NOW BECOME CRITICAL FOR THE NAM TO REDEFINE A ROLE FOR ITSELF IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN ITS SENSE OF UNITY AND PURPOSE. PERSONALLY HE THOUGHT THAT SOCIAL ISSUES (E.G., COMMUNICATIONS) SHOULD RANK WITH ECONOMIC ISSUES AS KEY AREAS OF NAM FOCUS. THE NAM HAD TO DEFINE ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE G-77 ON ECONOMIC ISSUES. MOST IMPORTANTLY THE NAM HAD TO RESOLVE THE INCREASINGLY DANGEROUS SPLIT IN ITSELF BETWEEN MODERATES AND RADICALS. IF THE NAM WAS TO SUCCEED IN THESE EFFORTS, BACHROUCH SAID, "EVERYTHING" DEPENDED ON CUBA AND CUBAN ACTIONS DURING THEIR UPCOMING PRESIDENCY OF THE NAM. IF CUBA CONFIDENTIAL

COULD BE CONVINCED TO ACT RESPONSIBLY IN CARRYING THE BANNER OF NAM CONSENSUS THEN THE NAM MIGHT WELL SUCCEED IN DEFINING A FRESH AND EFFECTIVE ROLE FOR ITSELF. IF THE CUBANS ON THE OTHER HAND ONLY TRIED TO USE THE NAM AS A VEHICLE FOR THEIR OWN NATIONAL POINT OF VIEW, THEN THE NAM COULD WELL FALL APART DURING THE CUBAN PRESI-DENCY.

3. U.S. PERCEPTIONS OF THE NAM: BACHROUCH CAUTIONED THE US TO STOP INTERPRETING VOTES WITHIN THE NAM WHICH CROSSED AMERICAN INTERESTS AS "ANTI-AMERICAN". TUNISIA, LIKE ALL OTHER NAM STATES, HAD TO CONSIDER MUCH MORE THAN JUST US REACTIONS IN CASTING ITS VOTES WITHIN THE NAM. ANY STATE, HE SAID, WOULD QUICKLY LOOSE ITS CREDIBILITY WITHIN THE NAM IF IT CHOSE TO FOLLOW A "US LINE" WITHOUT DEVIATION. THE NAM WAS A POLITICAL BODY THAT OPERATED BY VOTE TRADING PROCESSES MUCH LIKE THE US CONGRESS. TUNISIA, FOR EXAMPLE, MIGHT VERY WELL GO ALONG WITH CONTRARY VIEWS ON ISSUES OF MINOR IMPORTANCE TO TUNISIA IN RETURN FOR CONCESSIONS ON OTHER MATTERS. IT WAS UNREALISTIC FOR THE US TO EXPECT ANY OTHER BEHAVIOR. THE US SHOULD UNDERSTAND

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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AND RESPECT THE POLITICAL EXIGENCIES OF NAM
DECISION-MAKING. LEONARD

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Message Attributes

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EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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